

1. An artificial joint configured for use between first and second articulating
2 bones, comprising:
a first prosthetic component adapted for coupling to the first bone;
4 a second prosthetic component adapted for coupling to the second bone; and
a wheel, bearing or other rotating element between the two components to reduce
6 friction during articulation.

2. The artificial joint of claim 1, wherein:
2 the first prosthetic component is adapted for coupling to a distal femur;
the second prosthetic component is adapted for coupling to a proximal tibia; and
4 the first prosthetic component includes a roller rotatable about an axis oriented
generally medial to lateral.

3. The artificial joint of claim 1, wherein the second prosthetic component
2 includes a recess to receive the roller.

4. The artificial joint of claim 1, including a plurality of rollers, each
2 rotatable about an axis oriented generally medial to lateral.

5. The artificial joint of claim 1, including a debris-containing seal around
2 the first prosthetic component, first prosthetic component, wheel, bearing or other
rotating element.

6. The artificial joint of claim 1, including a fluid-containing seal around the
2 first prosthetic component, second prosthetic component, wheel, bearing or other rotating
element.

7. The artificial joint of claim 1, wherein the first prosthetic component,
2 second prosthetic component, wheel, bearing or other rotating element are tethered to one
or both of the first and second bones.

8. The artificial joint of claim 1, wherein the first prosthetic component,
2 second prosthetic component, wheel, bearing or other rotating element are associated
with a patellar replacement.

9. The artificial joint of claim 1, wherein:
2 the first prosthetic component is adapted for coupling to a proximal femur;
the second prosthetic component is an acetabular component; and
4 the first prosthetic component includes a rotatable element adapted to engage with
the acetabular component.

10. The artificial joint of claim 1, wherein:
2 the first prosthetic component is adapted for coupling to a proximal femur;
the second prosthetic component is an acetabular component; and
4 the first prosthetic component includes an element rotatable about two different
planes.

11. The artificial joint of claim 10, wherein the two planes are orthogonal to
2 one another.

12. The artificial joint of claim 10, wherein:
2 the first prosthetic component includes an intramedullary stem; and
the stem rotates about one of the planes.

13. The artificial joint of claim 10, wherein:
2 the first prosthetic component includes an intramedullary stem; and

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the stem includes a shock absorber.